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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,175	12/07/2004	Keith Grundon	AEL-4	5699
7590	07/07/2006		EXAMINER	
Ira S. Dorman Suite 200 330 Roberts Street East Hartford, CT 06108			IMAS, VLADIMIR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/517,175	GRUNDON, KEITH
	Examiner Vladimir Imas	Art Unit 2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (US 5,516,298).

Regarding claim 1, Smith, fig. 2 - 8, discloses a desk attachment, which includes: a base unit 40 including a communication bus 55', 61 having a communication port for connection to at least one remote signal source, and a plurality of bus connectors; and a plurality of user modules 72 for attachment to the base unit such that they are each electrically connected with the bus via a respective bus connector, each module having a PC port 48 (central unit) for connection with a local computer and at least one peripheral port 48 (right unit) for connection with a user interface device, the ports of the each module being arranged such that a computer on the PC port is operably connected to the at least one peripheral port and, via the respective bus connector, to the bus.

Regarding claim 2, Smith discloses the base unit includes a channel-shaped chassis 70 for receiving the user modules.

Regarding claim 3, Smith discloses the channel-shaped chassis includes a base wall 46 for attachment to a desk, with upstanding front 44 and rear walls 33'.

Regarding claim 4, Smith discloses the base unit includes a duct 81, 82 to contain the communication bus.

Regarding claim 5, Smith discloses the base unit includes a channel-shaped chassis for receiving the user modules, the channel-shaped chassis includes a base wall for attachment to a desk, with upstanding front and rear walls, and the duct is formed at the junction between the base and rear walls.

Regarding claim 6, Smith discloses the duct is provided with a plurality of bus connectors 55', 61 engagement by the user modules.

Regarding claim 7 Smith discloses the bus connectors are mounted in spaced positions along the duct.

Regarding claim 8 Smith discloses each user module includes a housing which positively locates within the chassis (formed by side walls 71 and front face 72).

Regarding claim 9 Smith discloses the peripheral ports are mounted on an upper face of the housing which is exposed when the user module is received in the chassis.

Regarding claim 10 Smith discloses the channel-shaped chassis includes a base wall for attachment to a desk, with upstanding front and rear walls, and each PC port is aligned with an aperture in the front wall.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed June 19, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has argued, "the panel 46 does not include a communications bus having a plurality of bus connectors". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Smith (column 4, lines 50-53) teaches "external telecommunication sources via cables (not shown in fig. 3) attached to the rear surfaces of the connectors".

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

✓/
Examiner
Vladimir Imas
6/30/2006

TCP
TULSIDAS C. PATEL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER